
Regional Council Activity Report

October 1, 1999



Briefing to Member Agencies from Executive Director James M. Bourey

Executive Director's Report

As a busy summer comes to a close, September brings with it even more activity for the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and our region. Many of the issues and projects we have been working on for the past several months are now entering high gear.

During the months of October and November, the Valley Vision 2025 Committee will host 12 public forums. These forums will be held in locations across the Valley to provide additional opportunities for public input into the vision process as well as to solicit citizen response to the goals already developed by the Committee. The forums will be conducted using a "nominal group process," meaning that after a brief explanation and overview of the process, participants will break out into small groups of 7-10 people. Members of the Regional Council and member agencies are invited and encouraged to attend these forums. A list of forum dates and locations was provided at the Regional Council meeting and are available by contacting Kelly Taft or Jason Stephens at 602-254-6300. It is important to note that a 12th public forum has been added to that list to accommodate individuals who rely on public transit. That forum is scheduled for Monday, November 15, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room here at MAG.

Progress continues in our efforts to ensure that our region receives an equitable return of federal transportation dollars. The Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC) continues to meet in an effort to arrive at a consensus for distributing the additional dollars which have become available through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). I have briefed both the Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee and the Executive Committee about the RAAC's progress to date, and I am confident the dialogue will continue to be focused and productive.

MAG has initiated work on a study with the Arizona Department of Transportation to select a route for the CANAMEX corridor through the Maricopa region. Presentations on the corridor have been made to the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force and the Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee. A series of stakeholder forums is being planned to receive

input on the corridor. A final CANAMEX route is expected to be identified by March 2000 for inclusion in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Speaking of the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force, a joint meeting with the MAG Regional Council has been scheduled for November 4, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the MAG Saguaro Room.

A joint meeting has also been scheduled between the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Pima Association of Governments on Wednesday, October 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Francisco Grande Resort in Casa Grande. Members of the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee and the Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee will meet with members of the PAG Regional Council to discuss common issues of interest to both organizations.



Regional Council Meeting Report for September 22, 1999

Council Approves Conceptual Framework for Grant Anticipation Note Agreement

Acceleration of the MAG Freeway Program to 2007 requires issuing Grant Anticipation Notes (GANs) against future federal funds. Under the proposed plan, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) would issue GANs pledging future ADOT federal funds. ADOT would be repaid using MAG federal funds already committed to the Regional Freeway Program. ADOT is planning the first GAN issue of approximately \$25 million for late October or November of this year. Although the GANs will be backed by the pledge of ADOT federal funds, an agreement between ADOT and MAG is needed to ensure that funds allocated to the Regional Freeway Program remain committed to repay ADOT. At its September 22nd meeting, the MAG Regional Council approved a conceptual framework for this agreement and granted the authority for the MAG Executive Director to execute the agreement within the approved framework.

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, 602-254-6300.

Council Vote Paves Way for Videoconferencing Project

The Regional Council approved a recommendation from the MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group authorizing MAG to issue a Request for Proposals for a regional videoconferencing system. The system will enable MAG's 27 member agencies to participate in MAG meetings via videoconferencing. The contract award will come back before the Council at a later date.

For more information, contact Heidi Pahl, MAG Videoconferencing Planner, 602-254-6300.

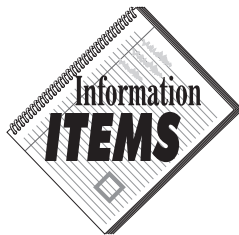


Upcoming Issues

Growing Smarter Commission

The Growing Smarter Commission has concluded its work and adopted its final report on September 1, 1999. Because of a number of changes to the report from its last Regional Council review, representatives from MAG member agencies will meet October 4th to revisit MAG's position on the Commission's report.

For more information, contact Corey Cox, MAG Regional Development Manager, 602-254-6300.



Information Items

MAG Hosts Foreign Delegations

The Maricopa Association of Governments has had the unique opportunity in recent months to host several overseas delegations interested in American planning practices. In July, MAG hosted the Chengdu Delegation and presented a comprehensive overview of MAG's regional planning activities. In the month of September, MAG also gave presentations and tours to planning delegates representing Bulgaria. The visits have presented MAG with a valuable opportunity to share information and learn more about the differences and similarities in regional planning practices across the globe.

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, 602-254-6300.

MAG Receives Domestic Violence Grant

Efforts to implement MAG's Regional Domestic Violence Plan received a boost last week, when the Governor's Office for Domestic Violence Prevention awarded MAG a \$51,850 grant through its Innovative Prevention Programs. The money will be used to support a full-time staff position as part of a regional coordinating body to oversee implementation of the plan. The plan incorporates 41 recommendations and potential strategies to address the serious issue of domestic violence in our region.

For more information, contact Carol Kratz, MAG Human Services Manager, 602-254-6300.

MAG Begins Roadside Travel Survey

Motorists entering and leaving the Phoenix metropolitan area are being asked to participate in a roadside study that will help determine future road improvements. The Maricopa Association of Governments, with the cooperation of Maricopa County and ADOT, is conducting the "MAG External Travel Study." The study

consists of 15 roadside surveys on the edge of the metropolitan Phoenix area.

The survey is designed to take less than two minutes. An interviewer asks each motorist to describe his or her trip by identifying where the trip started, where the trip will end, the reason for making the trip and how many people are in the vehicle. To ensure confidentiality of those surveyed, interviewers do not ask for the driver or passenger names and the vehicle license is not recorded. The study will allow MAG to obtain data about travel that goes through the Phoenix metropolitan area, and will enable engineers and planners to get the data needed to make the best choices for spending billions of dollars over the next 20 years on transportation. Planning for the survey has taken more than a year, with safety a primary concern in evaluating potential survey sites. **For more information, contact Mark Schlappi, MAG System Analysis Program Manager, at 602-254-6300.**

MAG Recognizes Employee Achievements

On September 17, 1999 MAG held an Employee Appreciation Luncheon to recognize employee accomplishments. The awards recognized 15 MAG employees, who together have provided a total of 221 years of dedicated service to our organization and the region.

For more information, contact Audrey Evans, MAG Office Services Supervisor, 602-254-6300.



Upcoming Events

Governor Hosts Thank-You Breakfast for Ozone Alert Program Participants

Governor Jane Dee Hull will extend a personal thank-you to employers and agencies who participated in the Governor's Ozone Alert Program. The breakfast will be held October 6 from 7:30-9:00 a.m. at the downtown Hyatt. MAG will be recognized at the breakfast for its role in providing \$300,000 in funding to support a media campaign informing residents about the ozone program.

For more information, contact Kelly Taft, Public Communications Program Manager, 602-254-6300.

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council Meeting will be held November 3, 1999. There is no meeting in October. Agenda items are expected to include MAG funding of cable median barriers as well as the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Mesa Southeast Water Reclamation Plant, which was moved from the September 22nd agenda.

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, 602-254-6300.